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To Mr. HALLETT

Borough of Lancaster.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1934.

Borough of Lancaster.

Annual Report

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Year ended 31st December, 1934.

Lancaster
Beeley Bros. (R. A. Beeley), Printers, Penny Street.

1935.

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

In accordance with Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, I beg to present to you my Twenty-second Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough and Port of Lancaster.

This report is drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1417 of the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. BUCHANAN.

10*th June*, 1935.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health (Borough and Port), School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospitals:

J. D. BUCHANAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer:

Miss R. T. RANKIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Port Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector, and Inspector of Factories and Workshops and Canal Boats:

H. SCHOLEFIELD, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspection.

Sanitary Inspectors (General, District and Port):

W. W. JACKSON, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspection.
W. COMBEY, Cert. S.I. Jt. Bd., Cert. Meat Inspection (to 31/5/34).
C. R. VARCOE, „ „ „ „ „ „ (from 2/7/34).

Health Visitors (who also act as School Nurses):

Mrs. BROWN, Fully Trained Nurse, C.M.B. Cert.
Mrs. SMITH, Fully Trained Nurse, C.M.B. Cert.
Miss THOMPSON, Trained Nurse (Children), New H.V. Cert.
Miss THOMS, Cert. R.S.I., C.M.B. Cert., New H.V. Cert.

Matron of Isolation Hospitals:

Miss A. BURROWS, General, Fever, C.M.B., & Housekeeping Certs.
(Transferred October, 1934, to service of Joint Hospital Board).

Veterinary Inspector and Meat Inspector (part time):

G. C. WEBSTER, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Public Analyst (part time):

HARRI HEAP, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Clerical Staff:

H. H. KELLETT (Chief Clerk). J. V. SMITH (Clerk).
H. TOWNSON (Junior Clerk).

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A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	3,482
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate), Mid-year, 1934	45,380
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1934) according to Rate Books	11,220
Rateable Value	£269,222
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,067

The population of the area, as revealed by the Census 26/27 April, 1931, was 43,396, compared with 41,410 in the year 1911, and 40,212 in 1921.

Industries and Occupations.

The chief manufactures of the town are those of linoleum, oilcloth, etc.; cotton weaving, furniture making, artificial silk works, and a dye works are other industries which provide employment for considerable numbers.

Unemployment.

The Unemployment Exchange figures shew an average of 885 totally unemployed during the year, compared with 823 in 1933, 993 in 1932, 1,130 in 1931, 984 in 1930, 864 in 1929, 792 in 1928, and 670 in 1927.

The average number of temporary stoppages during the year was 542, compared with 348 in 1933, 306 in 1932, 777 in 1931, 521 in 1930, and 106 in 1929.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of 1934.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births	Legitimate	639	302	337
	Illegitimate	37	18	19

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14·8.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Still Births	41	25	16

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 57.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	513	262	251

Death-rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 11·3.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :—

		Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still births).
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30—Other Puerperal causes	3	4·18
Total	3	4·18

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live Births	45
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births	45
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births	54
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	1

Case Rates of Infectious Diseases (per 1,000 civilian population)

	England and Wales.	Lancaster.
Small-pox	0·04	0·00
Scarlet Fever	3·76	4·21
Diphtheria	1·70	1·34
Enteric Fever	0·03	0·04
Puerperal Fever	0·06	0·00
Puerperal Pyrexia	0·15	0·11
Erysipelas	0·51	0·48

The rates for Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are better expressed in relation to the number of births registered rather than to the population, thus :—

Puerperal Fever	4·0	0·00
Puerperal Pyrexia	9·6	6 97

(per 1,000 total births registered).

Statistics (Supplied by the Registrar-General).

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes...	262	251
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Measles	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	1	—
6 Influenza	4	—
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	1
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	8	5
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1
11 Syphilis	—	—
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	—	1
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease	26	28
14 Diabetes	3	6
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	23	27
16 Heart Disease	51	50
17 Aneurysm	—	—
18 Other Circulatory Diseases	23	13
19 Bronchitis	17	12
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	30	15
21 Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
22 Peptic Ulcer	2	3
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	—
24 Appendicitis	2	1
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
26 Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	1	2
27 Other Digestive Diseases	5	4
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	7	17
29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Puerperal Causes	—	3
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	9	8
32 Senility	9	12
33 Suicide	2	2
34 Other Violence	11	10
35 Other defined diseases	19	26
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	3

Statistics (Supplied by the Registrar General)—(*Continued*).

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above) :-		
Small-pox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Polio-encephalitis	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—		
Total	15	16
Legitimate	14	15
Illegitimate	1	1
Live Births :—		
Total	320	356
Legitimate	302	337
Illegitimate	18	19
Still Births :—		
Total	25	16
Legitimate	24	16
Illegitimate	1	—
Population	45,380	

The total number of deaths in 1934 was 513, compared with 564 in 1933, and 540 in 1932.

There were no deaths from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, or Encephalitis Lethargica.

Compared with the previous year, the number (4) of deaths attributed to Influenza was 28 less

Deaths from Tuberculosis of the respiratory system also fell from 32 to 13. Cancer claimed nine fewer victims—54, as against 63. Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases increased from 68 to 77, the increase being due to the larger number of deaths from Pneumonia.

In seven cases the cause of death was uncertified. A certificate was granted, after *post-mortem* examination, by the Coroner, who held 17 inquests.

Twenty-three per cent. of the total deaths, 121 out of 513, occurred in Institutions.

The natural increase in population, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, was 163.

No definite figures are available for *Sickness* or *Invalidity*, apart from the notifications of Infectious Diseases. Particulars of these are given in the section relating to Infectious Diseases.

Measles was epidemic in the Spring of the year, and Mumps from October onwards. Chicken-pox was also more prevalent than usual.

Deaths in Institutions.

Name of Institution.	Number of Deaths.
Public Assistance Institution, Lancaster	51
Royal Lancaster Infirmary	57
County Mental Hospital, Lancaster	9
Nazareth House, Lancaster	1
Luneside Isolation Hospital	2
Royal Albert Institution	1

The Table below shews the general and infant mortality rates calculated for the various Wards in the area. It should be observed that the total (41,577) of the estimated population of the various Wards falls short of the estimate (45,380) used by the Registrar-General by 3,803. This last figure represents, approximately, the non-native population in our two largest institutions.

The method adopted for estimating the Ward population was to multiply the number of houses by 3·76 (the average number of persons per house). The 1931 Census figures are no longer accurate, owing to recent building operations in Scotforth and Skerton Wards, and the consequent shifting of the population.

Ward.	Population (est'd.).	Total Deaths.	General death-rate per 1,000 Population.	Infant Deaths.	Infant death-rate per 1,000 Births.
Bulk	3184	36	11·31	2	33
Castle	3122	57	18·26	5	78
J. o'Gaunt..	4699	71	15·11	4	47
Park	2988	38	12·72	2	44
Queen's ...	4819	69	14·32	2	35
Scotforth...	9705	111	11·44	3	23
Skerton ...	9926	91	9·17	9	55
St. Anne's..	3134	40	12·76	4	66
Borough ...	41,577	513	12·3*	31	45

*This figure (12·3) probably represents the general death-rate for the Borough more accurately than does that (11·3) given by the Registrar-General.

RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	Death Rate from Cancer.	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under one Year of Age per 1,000 Live Births.
					Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births.	
Mean of 5 years, 1929–33	14·7	12·8	0·59	1·42	5·32	5·08	74
Year 1933	14·1	12·6	0·71	1·41	4·77	4·58	66
,, 1934	14·8	†11·3	0·28	1·18	4·43	4·18	45
Increase or Decrease in 1934 on :—							
5 Years' Average, 1929–1933	+0·1	−0·5	−0·31	−0·24	−0·89	−0·90	−29
Previous Year ...	+·07	−1·3	−0·43	−0·23	−0·34	−0·40	−21

† 1934 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor = 0·99) = 11·1 per 1,000.

B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Detailed information regarding the services provided in the area was given in the Annual Report for 1930, and only alterations or developments during the year are given in this Report.

Particulars of the Staff appear on page 3.

In addition to the Public Health Laboratory of Manchester University, use was also made of the Pathological Laboratory of Preston Royal Infirmary for the examination of samples of milk for tubercle bacilli and dirt.

Following the closing of the Isolation Hospital at Luneside, the motor ambulance which belonged to the Town Council, and was housed at a central garage, was transferred to the Joint Hospital Board. As it is now garaged at the new Hospital, there is less delay than formerly in the removal of patients from their homes to the Hospital. The Town Council still has a horse-drawn ambulance for cases of Small-pox. For non-infectious cases the Watch Committee has an efficient ambulance service.

During the year the following developments took place in connection with the scheme for extension at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary. The temporary ward erected during the war years was replaced by a two-storey building, consisting of two wards, each containing 20 beds, and a small ward of four beds for eye cases. A new X-Ray Department was provided and equipped at a total cost of £8,500, and the enlargement of the Electro-therapeutic Department was begun. The Maternity Ward was opened; it contains fifteen beds and two private wards, with a separate lying-in ward and isolation accommodation.

Negotiations were opened with the Committee of the Infirmary by the Town Council for the admission of maternity patients, but were not completed during 1934.

The private Maternity Home at No. 13, Quernmore Road, was closed towards the end of the year.

C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—During the early part of the Summer it seemed as if restrictions might have to be put on water consumers, as happened in the previous year. A wet period in the month of June, however, made this course unnecessary, and the bringing into use, in September, of the new storage reservoir at Langthwaite has relieved the Water Committee of anxiety for the future.

A new pipe-line was laid from this reservoir, *via* the Scotforth filter plant, to the service reservoir at Wyresdale Road, and the filtration plant was improved and extended. Improvements were also carried out at the Langthwaite filters which should obviate complaints in future as to the discoloured appearance of the water. The results of an analysis of the area's water supply will be found at the end of this report.

Drainage and Sewerage.—As in previous years, after heavy downpours of rain, complaints were received of flooding in certain districts. The work of laying the new intercepting sewer on the Lancaster side of the Lune was begun. This sewer will carry the main bulk of the sewage of the area, which now enters the river centrally, to retaining tanks nearer the mouth of the river, for discharge on the ebb tide. The cesspools in connection with new houses on Torrisholme Road, referred to in the Report for 1933, have not yet been replaced by a proper sewerage system. Complaints of nuisance were received during the Summer.

Rivers and Streams.—Complaints were received of the pollution of Burrow Beck by lime from building operations. This Beck continues to be liable to pollution from the adjacent sewer when the latter is taxed beyond its capacity in wet weather.

Closet Accommodation.—During the year, over 600 water closets were provided in connection with housing developments. The number of pail closets was reduced from 21 to 17, and of privy middens from 11 to 8. The number of closets of each type remaining at the end of 1934 was:—

Fresh Water Closets	15,079
Pail Closets	17
Privy Middens	8

The public convenience for women in Brock Street was closed as the result of complaints as to its condition.

Public Cleansing.—The operation of the Bye-laws adopted in 1933 to facilitate the collection of house refuse was extended throughout the area with the co-operation of householders, many hundreds of whom provided ashbins. The making-up of streets was continued, making cleansing more easy.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	Inspection.	Re-inspections.
Dwelling-houses:—		
Inspected on Complaint	466	629
Re Infectious Diseases	173	23
Housing Acts	209	423
Routine Inspections	560	22
Factories	120	—
Workshops	245	5
Workplaces, other than Outworkers	17	—
Outworkers	39	—
Offensive Trades	254	—
Common Lodging Houses	167	—
Drains	76	114
Stable Premises and Garages	51	10
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	3	2
Markets:—		
Fish, Retail	107	—
„ Wholesale	50	—
Cattle	55	—
General	100	—
Unsound Food	51	—

	Inspections.	Re-inspections.
Overcrowding	87	9
Verminous Premises	45	127
Shops :—		
Fish	129	—
Fried Fish	142	—
Provision	78	—
Meat	633	—
Ice Cream	98	—
Slaughterhouses	654	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	70	—
Milk Shops	67	—
Canal Boats	62	—
Public Urinals	23	—
Houses Let-in-Lodgings	72	—
Port Inspections	13	—
Flooded Cellars	81	—
Miscellaneous	278	—

Sanitary Improvements Effected.

Houses dealt with :—

	Public Health Acts.	Housing and Town Planning Acts.
Lighting and ventilation improved	—	140
Roofs reconstructed or repaired	—	55
Floors repaired or relaid	—	34
Fireplaces repaired or provided	—	63
Staircases repaired	—	12
Walls and Chimneys pointed and repaired	—	14
Repairs and renewals to w.c. accommodation	86	—
Ashpits repaired	81	—
Bins replaced	21	—
Ashpits demolished and replaced by bins	3 (6 bins)	—
New Sinks or other sanitary fittings	14	—

Yard and lobby pavements repaired	—	12
Drains repaired or renewed	33	—
Gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	—	91
Provided with sufficient water supply	41	—
Water services repaired	32	—
Plasterwork	—	39
Accumulations removed	3	—
Factories and Workshops repaired — Factories	—	4
Factories and Workshops repaired — Workshops	—	14
Drains tested	—	82
General nuisances	12	46
Verminous Houses	46	—
Referred to Other Departments :—		
Surveyor's Department	—	28
Water	—	25
Gas	—	2

Notices Served in 1934.

Under the Public Health Acts	Preliminary	321
	Statutory	98
Housing Acts	Preliminary	317
	Statutory	80

Notices Outstanding at the End of the Year.

Preliminary	31
Statutory	36

Smoke Abatement.—Although several complaints were received during the year of nuisance from black smoke from industrial chimneys, on the whole, with the exception of a few chimneys, pollution of the atmosphere from this source is not so serious as it was a few years ago. This improvement is due to the ready co-operation of a number of firms in recent years. These have generally found that 'cleaning up' their chimneys by the installation of modern plant and the adoption of scientific methods of stoking have resulted in a saving of fuel. Shortage of boiler power appears to be the chief cause of the continued nuisance from the centrally-situated factories. One firm has admitted this, and is taking steps to remedy the deficiency.

A number of observations were made, following which a bye-law was adopted under Section 2 of the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, limiting the " emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes " from an industrial chimney.

The chief offenders were officially written to during the year, and their co-operation invited.

The problem of domestic smoke pollution, no less serious in the area, has not received any special attention. A supply of smokeless fuel for the open grate at a reasonable price is not yet available locally.

Schools.—The sanitary condition, with one exception which is being attended to, and the water supply of the schools are satisfactory. The need, generally, of a constant supply of hot water and of shower-baths in connection with our elementary schools is obvious to those directly concerned with the health of the scholars.

The recommendations of the 1927 official Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School are followed in the area. No schools were closed during the year on account of infectious disease

D.—Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*))	609
(1) By the Local Authority	50
(2) By other Local Authorities	—
(3) By other bodies and persons	559
(*b*) With state assistance under the Housing Acts :-	
(1) By the Local Authority	—
(2) By other bodies or persons	—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	592

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	660
(2) (*a*) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	207
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	236
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	83
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	380
2.—**Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—**	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	317
3.—**Action under Statutory Powers.**	
A.—**Proceedings under sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:—**	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	80
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(*a*) By Owners	65
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners.	—
B.—**Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—**	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	98

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(*a*) By Owners	75
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C.—**Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	27
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

D.—**Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—

Housing conditions in the area were commented on in the Reports for 1930 (pp. 20 to 25), for 1932 (pp. 20 to 23), and for 1933 (pp. 16 to 17).

Private enterprise continued to be very active during the year in building houses for sale to the number of 559, but there is still great need of houses to be let at weekly rents which the working classes can afford to pay, such as the 50 houses built by the Corporation during 1934 on the Ryelands Estate, and let at an economic rent (rates included) of 10s. 6d. per week.

The year 1934 also saw the beginning of the erection of 110 houses to re-house the tenants displaced from the Monmouth Street and Bridge Lane Clearance Areas, which were the subject of an enquiry by the Ministry of Health in July, Six houses in the Bridge Lane area, excluded by the Minister of Health, were subsequently dealt with by Demolition Orders, as were also 15 houses in King Street and six in Main Street (Snape's Yard), owned by the Corporation. Towards the end of the year official representations were made in respect of a further 14 Clearance Areas —Shovel Yard, Corkill's Yard, Hargreaves' Yard, Barrow's Yard (James Street), Anchor Lane (including also Lawson's Yard and Chancery Lane), Oven House Gates, McKenzie's Yard, Back Cable Street, Back Parliament Street North, Back Sulyard Street, Back Sun Street, Princess Street, Capstick's Yard, and Moor Street.

No. 93, King Street, previously represented as an unfit house, was demolished, and Demolition Orders were made on the three houses in Mona Place. A Closing Order was made on the basement of No. 22, Westbourne Terrace. Three houses in Cable Street and three in Fleet Street were demolished by the Streets Committee.

Seventy-six houses, including 40 belonging to the Corporation, were found to be more or less infested with bed-bugs. Chemical disinfectants were used to get rid of the vermin, with some measure of success. Verbal and printed advice was supplied to occupiers of houses.

During the year the Health Committee set up a new Housing Department, and appointed a staff of women specially trained in the management of house property. This department took over the management of the Corporation's housing estates in November, and the staff were immediately faced with the task of re-housing tenants from Clearance Areas on the Willow Lane Estate.

E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The practice of sampling milk for dirt by means of cotton-wool wads was continued in 1934, and 575 samples were examined, 456 satisfactory and 119 unsatisfactory. Vendors were invited to call subsequently at the Health Office and inspect the results. Where the wads shewed sediment above a certain standard, the vendors were seen by the Medical Officer of Health, and warned. Information was given on the subject of the production of clean milk, sometimes supplemented by appropriate literature, and the requirements of the Order of 1926 emphasised. Farms and dairies were regularly inspected, but not so frequently as appears to be necessary in some cases.

Twelve samples of milk were taken and delivered at the Pathological Laboratory, Preston Royal Infirmary, for examination for tubercle bacilli and bacterial count. The tubercle bacillus was not found in any of the samples, but coliform bacilli were present in eight. The bacterial count figures per cubic centimetre were :—

	Under 10,000.	10,000—30,000.	30,000—200,000.	200,000—500,000.	Over 500,000.
No. of samples ...	4 ...	1 ...	4 ...	1 ...	2
Percentage ...	33·3 ...	8·3 ...	33·3 ...	8·3 ...	16·6

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, a cowkeeper notified two cows, both of which were found to be tubercular and were slaughtered. The compensation paid was, in one case, £4 10s., in the other, £1 10s.

The amount of designated milk sold in the area is less than three per cent. of the total. Only 1½ gallons of certified milk and 66 gallons of Grade "A" are consumed daily. Sterilised milk contributes 111 gallons to the total daily consumption of 2,434 gallons for a population of about 42,000. In 1934, pasteurised milk, sold as such, began to be sold on a small scale.

The bulk of the milk supply of the Borough continues to be distributed under conditions favourable to contamination, a state of affairs for which consumers cannot be held blameless—the doorstep milk jug is still with us.

Sixteen cowkeepers are registered in the area. Seven of these retail milk in the Borough. In addition to these there are a further 103 retailers. Almost two-thirds of our supply comes from the Lancaster Rural District, and one-sixth from Lunesdale Rural District.

Meat and Other Foods.

The bulk of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's time is absorbed in the supervision of the food supply, in the inspection of meat at the public slaughter-house, the market stalls, shops and places where food is prepared.

As a result of these inspections over eight tons of unsound food were condemned.

The following is a comparison of the number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Slaughter-house during the past five years :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Cattle	2,585	2,286	2,254	2,449	2,590
Calves	364	338	367	420	499
Sheep	14,153	13,742	16,454	18,238	17,610
Pigs	2,491	2,755	3,575	3,454	3,494

Unsound Food Condemned in 1934.

Description.		Approximate Weight Destroyed.			
		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Cattle	Tubercular	—	18	2	2
	Other diseases	4	13	1	—
Pigs	Tubercular	—	4	3	23
	Other diseases	—	8	—	15
Sheep	Flukes	—	8	3	20
	Other diseases	—	1	—	—
Beef	Imported, Chilled	—	1	2	20
	„ Frozen	—	—	—	24
Pork, Imported, Frozen		—	—	—	20
Veal (Tinned)		—	—	—	18
Rabbits		—	—	—	18
Haddock (wet fish)		—	2	2	2
Plaice		—	—	2	20
Cod...		—	—	3	14
Kippers		—	1	—	12
Apples		—	7	3	4
Raspberries		—	6	1	20
Damsons		—	—	2	16
Peas		—	4	3	8
Onions		—	1	2	10
Nuts (mixed)		—	—	3	14
TOTAL...		8	4	2	—

Adulteration.

Under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, 144 samples (95 of milk, 32 of butter, 8 of cheese, and 9 of cream) were submitted for analysis.

The Public Analyst reported that 129 samples were genuine, but that 15 of the milk samples were not. These 15 samples are numbered 19, 25, 30, 38, 61, 62, 65, 73, 77, 85, 87, 90, 125, 126, and

127 in the following statement, which shews the results of subsequent sampling :—

Date.	No. of Sample.		Fat.	Non-Fatty Solids.
20-2-34 a.m.	Informal	19	2·85	8·13
25-2-34 a.m.	,,	25	2·75	7·99
17-4-34 a.m.	,,	40	4·65	8·72
13-3-34 a.m.	Formal	30	2·95	8·96
17-4-34 a.m.	Informal	39	3·40	8·64
17-4-34 a m.	,,	38	2·70	8·70
15-5-34 a m.	,,	54	3·50	9·26
18-6-34 a.m.	,,	61	2·90	8·68
2-7-34 p m.	,,	79	4·40	8·98
18-6-34 a.m.	,,	62	2·70	8·70
2-7-34 a.m.	,,	74	3·10	8·83
2-7-34 a.m.	,,	75	3·65	8·79
18 6-34 a.m.	,,	65	2·85	8·77
2-7-34 a.m.	,,	77	2·75	8·63
2-7-34 p.m.	,,	78	4·00	8·73
9-7-34 a.m.	,,	85	3·05	8·29
13-8-34 a.m.	,,	91	3·10	8·84
13-8-34 p.m.	,,	93	4·60	8.94
2-7-34 a.m.	,,	73	2·65	8·83
12-7-34 p.m.	,,	86	4·20	8 62
12-7-34 a.m.	,,	87	2·90	8·60
13-8-34 a.m.	,,	90	2·75	8·76
21-8-34 a.m.	,,	97	4·40	9·22
21-8-34 p.m.	,,	98	5·20	8·72
20-11-34 a.m.	,,	125	5·30	8·36
20-11-34 p.m.	,,	126	4·90	8·42
4-12-34 a.m	,,	135	3·30	8·63
20-11-34 a.m.	,,	127	2·80	7 94
4-12-34 a.m.	,,	137	3·50	8·78

The average percentage of fat was 3·71, and of non-fatty solids 8·86, in the total 95 samples, in none of which was there found any preservative.

No action was taken under the Artificial Cream Act, nor under the Condensed or Dried Milk Regulations.

Nutrition.

Information as to foods and food values was given at the Ante-Natal Clinic and Child Welfare Centres throughout the year, also during Health Week lectures were given on the food value of milk.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1934.

Disease.	Cases Notified.													Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.												
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Total		Total	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	...	3	7	12	14	78	39	13	21	1	3	...	191	103	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	2	4	5	5	28	8	2	7	...	...	...	61	57	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia { Acute Prim'y and ,, Influenzal }	...	2	...	1	...	8	1	2	14	4	17	6	55	19*	45	3	2	2	1	...	1	...	1	2	6	18	9 (All forms)
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	6	4†	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	3	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.........	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	5	2	8	4	22	5‡	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ..	3	7	12	18	19	115	52	18	54	7	28	11	344	193	49	3	2	3	1	...	2	...	1	3	6	18	10

* Notified from Hospitals and Institutions. † 1 notified from Institution. ‡ 4 notified from Institutions.

F.—Infectious Diseases.

Smallpox.—The area has been free from Smallpox since 1905.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease was three times as prevalent as in the previous year, the maximum incidence being in the month of April. There were 191 cases notified, including 47 from public institutions ; 38 cases, or one-fifth of the total, were over 15 years of age. The Ward distribution was as follows :—

Bulk	15	Queens	14
Castle	8	Scotforth ...	72
John o'Gaunt ...	9	Skerton	58
Park	7	St. Anne's ...	8

The 72 cases in Scotforth Ward included 44 from two Institutions.

The elementary schools chiefly affected were Skerton Council and Dallas Road.

Of the 144 cases which were notified from ordinary dwelling-houses, there were two cases from the same house in 17 instances. In no instance were there more than two cases from one house.

About half of the cases were notified within four days of the onset of illness. In 14 instances the illness had lasted for more than a week before notification. The disease was generally mild in character—there were no deaths. There were four "return" cases, the intervals between the discharge from hospital of the supposed infecting case and the onset of illness in the infected case being 4, 7, 13 and 17 days.

103 of the 191 notified cases were removed to hospital after enquiry as to the home conditions, and uncomplicated cases were discharged on the 28th day of the disease. The average duration of the stay in hospital was 31 days for all cases.

Diphtheria.—There was a marked fall—from 164 to 61—in the number of cases notified of this disease. Twenty-eight of the 61 cases occurred in the 5—10 age group. All but four cases were removed to hospital, and there was one death. One half of the cases occurred in Skerton Ward, and more than a quarter of the cases in the month of January. There were two cases from each of five houses, and four cases from one house. As with Scarlet Fever, the number of notifications of Diphtheria was greatest in the Spring, declining during the Summer months, to rise again towards the end of the year. There have been no cases of Diphtheria amongst the children at Ripley Hospital since artificial immunisatson was introduced there in the year 1928. Nazareth House also remained free from the disease during 1934, the majority of the children having been immunised in the year 1933.

An increasing number of parents are resorting to artificial immunisation to protect their children, but the proportion of protected children in the area is not yet sufficiently great to bring to an end the epidemic which began more than two years ago. It is well, therefore, that when children do contract the infection, anti-toxin is used so promptly and freely in the treatment of diphtheria—1,273,500 units being used during the year.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases were notified. In one case the paratyphoid infection appears to have been contracted abroad; in the other case the probable source of infection was polluted water in which the patient was accustomed to bathe. Both patients were removed to hospital, and both recovered.

Erysipelas.—Twenty-two cases were notified, including five from Institutions. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia.—Fifty-five cases were notified, as compared with 67 in the previous year, and 61 in the year 1932. Eleven of the 55 cases were Influenzal Pneumonia. Nineteen notifications related to patients resident in Institutions. There were 45 deaths, or 9 more than in 1933.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—Six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, one an inmate of an Institution. Three of the remaining five were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and all six patients recovered.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.—Three cases were notified. Two of the patients were admitted to hospital, the other was too ill to be moved. All three cases ended fatally.

One case of **Acute Poliomyelitis** and three cases of **Ophthalmia Neonatorum** were notified during the year.

Of the non-notifiable diseases, 397 cases of **Measles,** 167 of **Chicken-pox,** and 412 of **Mumps** were reported from the elementary schools.

Isolation Hospital.

In addition to 130 patients from the Borough admitted to the Luneside Hospital, there were two each from the Lancaster Rural District and the Borough of Morecambe and Heysham.

Seven years after its disastrous flooding, this Hospital was evacuated on October the 25th, and its thirteen remaining patients were transfered to the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, on Slyne Road.

The total number of patients from the Borough admitted to the new Isolation Hospital up to the end of 1934 was 38.

The Hospital at Luneside was designed forty years ago for the reception of only two diseases, Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever. When, in 1915, it was decided to admit Diphtheria patients, the necessary accommodation was not provided. In spite of the lack of facilities for classification, cases of the following diseases, in addition to Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever, have from time to time been treated at Luneside Hospital, viz., Measles, Infantile Diarrhœa, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica and Puerperal Fever.

The Joint Board's Hospital has exceptional facilities for dealing with several different diseases, because of the planning of its bed accommodation : in addition to the separate single-bed wards in connection with the two main ward blocks, there are eighteen separate beds in the two cubicle blocks.

Bacteriological Examinations.—508 specimens were examined at the Laboratory, Manchester University—466 for Diphtheria, 11 for Typhoid Fever, 19 for Tuberculosis, and 12 miscellaneous.

Disinfection.—536 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., and 176 library books were disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, and 474 houses, including houses where Cancer and Tuberculosis had occurred, were disinfected by formalin.

Cancer.—Cronin-Lowe's modification of the Bendien test is used for diagnosis at the local Infirmary. No special enquiries relating to the disease in the area have been made.

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1934 was 54, which was nine less than in 1933. A Table is appended giving figures for the past 22 years.

Prevention of Blindness.—No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1934.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
5	—	1	3	4	—	—	1	—
10	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
15	1	4	1	—	—	1	1	—
20	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	8	6	3	—	1	1	—	—
35	4	4	1	—	1	2	—	—
45	4	2	—	1	3	1	—	—
55	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	20	10	7	8	5	2	1
Totals...	43		17		13		3	

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was 16 against 36 in 1933, 37 in 1932, 28 in 1931, 26 in 1930, 39 in 1929, 36 in 1928, and 41 in 1927.

The ratio of non-notified to total deaths was 1 to 16.

The explanation usually given of the omission to notify was forgetfulness, or failure to diagnose until the patient was dying.

Fluctuations in the number of cases on the register during the year are shewn in the table below :—

Cases of Tuberculosis.	Respiratory.		Other Forms.	
	M	F	M	F
(*a*) On register, 1st January, 1934 ...	68	77	48	51
(*b*) Notified for the first time in 1934 ...	21	22	10	7
Total (*a*) and (*b*) ...	89	99	58	58
(*c*) Removed from register in 1934 ...	18	12	4	5
(*d*) Remaining, 31st December, 1934 ...	71	87	54	53

This table shews 60 cases notified for the first time during the year. Of these, 18 were notified from the County Mental Hospital, 5 from the Public Assistance Institution, and 2 from Royal Albert Institution. Thirteen of the 43 Pulmonary cases died during the year.

The number who applied to the County Dispensary in Middle Street for treatment was 34. Those who did not apply were notified from Institutions or died soon after notification, or removed from the area, or were written off the register as " Diagnosis not confirmed."

The number of new patients examined by the County Tuberculosis Officers in 1934 was 128, and the number of re-examinations of old patients was 374.

Patients discharged from Institutions :—

(*a*) From Sanatoria	14
(*b*) ,, Pulmonary Hospitals	5
	19

Condition on discharge :—

Improved	10
In *Statu quo*	4
Worse	2
Died	3
	19

Dr. G. H. Leigh, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, to whom I am indebted for the information given above, has also supplied the following table shewing the extent of isolation amongst those who applied to the Dispensary for treatment :—

HOUSING CONDITION OF TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS ON 31/12/1934.

	Infectious.			Non-Infectious.			Non-Pulmonary.			Total.
	Sep. Room.	Sep. Bed.	Not Sep. Bed.	Sep. Room.	Sep. Bed.	Not Sep. Bed.	Sep. Room.	Sep. Bed.	Not Sep. Bed.	
Children—										
Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	4	14
Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	3	9
Adults—										
Males	17	2	1	7	—	7	10	1	5	50
Females ...	17	1	—	9	—	4	5	—	10	46
Total	34	3	1	16	—	13	22	8	22	119

No action was taken under the **Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925** (relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the **Public Health Act, 1925** (relating to compulsory removal to hospital).

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Particulars of each case notified :—

Cases.			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
July 9	Three.	None.	Three.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
August 28 ...						
November 19...						

Public Health Education.

A Health Week and Exhibition were held in the Spring. A handbook in connection with it was circulated generally.

For a number of years it had been possible, with the help of local advertisements, to issue, monthly, 2,000 free copies of the national magazine " Better Health " to elementary school children and others. Through lack of support from the local firms the number of free copies was reduced to 200 at the end of 1933. For the most part these are distributed amongst school teachers.

One of the Empire Marketing Board's frames has been used for the display of posters issued by the Central Council for Health Education.

The National Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis organised lectures to school children and the general public.

Apart from these activities, the public interest is being regularly focussed on the prevention of ill-health by articles in the national and local press. The publicity recently given to the prevention of diphtheria in the West Riding of Yorkshire by artificial immunisation methods led to an increase in the number of Lancaster children immunised.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The staff engaged in this service consists of an Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who is also the Assistant School Medical Officer, and four Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses.

Statistics for the Year 1934.

Births.

Registered ...	(1) Legitimate :	(2) Illegitimate	(3) Total :
	(*a*) Live, 639	37	676
	(*b*) Still, 40	1	41

Notified within 36 hours of birth ... (1) Live births, 656. (2) Still births, 37. Total, 693.
(1) By Midwives, 621 (2) By parents & doctors, 72.

Infant Deaths.

Number ...... (1) Legitimate, 29 ; (2) Illegitimate, 2 ; (3) Total, 31.

Rate per 1,000 births ... (1) Legitimate, 45 ; (2) Illegitimate, 54 ; Total, 45.

Maternal Deaths.—Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(*a*) From Sepsis ... —
(*b*) Other Causes ... 3

Midwives.—Number practising in the district :—

(1) Trained, 16 ; (2) Untrained, 1.

Midwifery.—In 719 cases investigated ;—

Attended by Doctor	260
,, ,, Trained Midwife ...	361
,, ,, Untrained ,, ...	64
,, ,, Handywoman ...	—
Born before arrival of attendant ...	34

Health Visitors.—Visits paid during the year :—

To Expectant Mothers...(1) First Visits, 27 ; (2) Total Visits, 92.
To Infants under 1 ......(1) First Visits, 612 ; (2) Total Visits, 2,685.
To Children 1—5 ....(1) Total Visits, 4,241.
Other M. and C. W. Visits, 93.

Municipal Centres and Clinics.

	Average Attendance per Session.		Numbers who attended for the First Time.	
	Expectant Mothers.	Children.	Expectant Mothers.	Children.
Centres:				
Thurnham House (1)	—	70	—	257
Thurnham House (2)	—	73	—	231
Skerton	—	73	—	202
Ante-Natal Clinic.................	10	—	205	—

Infectious Diseases.

		Number of Cases Notified	Number of Cases visited	Number of Cases Nursed.	Number removed to Hospit'l
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		3	3	2	—
Puerperal Fever		—	—	—	—
†Puerperal Pyrexia		6	5	—	4
Acute Poliomyelitis		—	—	—	—
*Measles and German Measles ...	Children under 5.	—	147	2	—
*Whooping Cough		—	5	—	—
*Epidemic Diarrhœa		—	3	—	—

* Not Notifiable.

† 1 Notified from County Mental Hospital.

3 others were removed to Luneside Isolation Hospital after notification.

Notification of Births. - 12 cases, in addition to four stillbirths, were not notified within 36 hours as required by the Act. In each case of failure to notify, the parent was asked to explain the omission.

Unqualified Midwifery.—The number of confinements at which the attendant was not either a doctor or *trained* midwife was 64. The number was 67 in 1933, 61 in 1932, 74 in 1931, 64 in 1930, 53 in 1929, and 111 in 1928.

Lying-in Beds.—The housing conditions under which many women were confined were far from satisfactory. Conditions were specially difficult in houses let-in-lodgings.

There were 30 births in the Infirmary, six in the Public Assistance Institution, and 56 in private Maternity Homes.

Stillbirths.—There were 41 stillborn babies registered during the year, of whom 37 were notified.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 31 deaths under one year, against 42 in 1933, 54 in 1932, 39 in 1931, 37 in 1930, 66 in 1929, 48 in 1928, and 50 in 1927. 15 of the infant deaths occured during the first week, five of these being attributed to premature birth.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 45 was the lowest recorded in the Borough.

Maternal Mortality.—The deaths of three mothers were connected with childbirth, all from other causes than sepsis. The investigation of these deaths was carried out by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 m'nths & under 6 months	6 m'nths & under 9 months	9 m'nths & under 12 months	Total under 1 year
1 Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Measles... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Wh'oping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Convulsions ..	4	1	...	1	6	...	3	1	1	11
13 Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
16 Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18 Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
19 Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 Rickets... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21 Suffocation (overlaying)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22 Injury at Birth. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Atelectasis ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
24 Congenital Malformations ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
25 Premature Birth	4	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
26 Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
27 Other Causes ...	4	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	...	6
TOTALS ...	15	4	1	1	21	3	4	2	1	31

Ante-Natal Clinic.—The number of expectant mothers who made use of this Clinic shewed an increase of 33. The number who attended in 1934 was 205, of whom 194 were married and 8 single, Multiparæ numbered 144, primiparæ 61, and 26 were not pregnant. Twenty-six were referred by Health Visitors, 46 by Midwives, and 130 attended of their own accord or were advised to attend by husband or friends. Four were referred by the Assistant M.O.H.

By arrangement with the Nursing Society, nine expectant mothers were provided with free midwifery attendance and 26 were attended at reduced fees, the payments made to the Society by the women amounting to £9 11s. 0d.

Fifty women were found to be in urgent need of dental treatment. Twenty-six of these were necessitous and were offered free treatment at the Dental Clinic, but twelve refused.

In three cases specimens of blood were taken for the Wasserman reaction, and all were negative. Three smears were taken and examined with negative results. The pregnancies in the cases of three women who refused blood tests resulted in stillbirths

Orthopædic After-Care Centre.—There were seven new cases of children under school age, with non-tubercular deformities, who attended for the first time.

The nature of the defect was:—Spina Bifida 2, Bowlegs 1, Congenital Dislocation of Hip 1, Obturator Spasm 1, Infantile Paralysis 1, Amputated Left Foot 1.

One child under school age was admitted to the Ethel Hedley Hospital, Windermere, for in-patient treatment.

Ten examinations were made at the After-Care Centre of the seven new cases, and nine re-examinations of six old cases.

Assisted Milk Supply.—The amount of dried milk distributed at less than cost price was 8,936 lbs., compared with 7,314 lbs. in 1933. 1,973 lbs. were sold at cost price, 861 lbs. at half-cost and 8,275 lbs. given free, in accordance with the scale based on the family income.

40 children under school age were treated at the **Minor Ailments Clinic**, 47 at the **Dental Clinic**, and four were referred to the Royal Infirmary for removal of **Tonsils and Adenoids.**

Inflammation of the Eye in the New-born.—Fifteen cases were investigated at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Squint in Children under 5 years.—Sixteen children were examined by Dr. Sykes, who prescribed spectacles in fourteen cases.

The following notes on **Maternity and Child Welfare Work** are contributed by Dr. R. T. Rankin :—

" During the past twenty years the expansion of Maternity and Child Welfare Work has more than justified itself. This is seen not only in the bald figures relating to Infantile Mortality, but the continuity of the work is shewn in the improved condition of the five-year-old entrant to school, who nowadays rarely enters school with a severe or crippling defect, though too many still enter with minor defects. These minor defects are mainly of nutritional and dental origin, and lack of early hygienic training. Their prevention, therefore, being largely dependent on good and sensible mothercraft and fathercraft, calls for continued efforts, rather than complacency, to help parents to lessen these preventable defects.

Since the year 1916, when the staff of Nurse Health Visitors was increased to four, Maternity and Child Welfare work has expanded and developed. The original "School for Mothers," which was held once a week, has developed into three Infant Welfare Centres, to which has been added an Ante-Natal Clinic ; and in association with the schemes of the Local Education Authority, children under five years of age have been brought within the scope of regular Clinics —Orthopædic, Vision, Dental, and Minor Ailments—and of the arrangements for the treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids.

During these eighteen years of expansion and development no addition was made to the Health Visiting Staff, but the recent decision of the Town Council to appoint a fifth Nurse Health Visitor will make possible more systematic visiting to the homes of children, and more regular supervision of the environmental conditions of the

2—5-year-olds, whereby it is hoped to reduce the number of preventable minor defects amongst children entering school.

Although the low Infant Mortality figure (45) recorded for the year 1934 is very gratifying to those concerned, from all aspects, with the welfare of the infant, it carries with it the anxiety lest it should not be maintained, far less reduced still further, especially as the chief practice which one feels would still further reduce infant mortality and lead to healthier childhood continues to be out of fashion. Breast feeding has made no advance in recent years. This is chiefly due to lack of encouragement from those who surround and advise a nursing mother. The Welfare Centre, with its encouragement one day a week, has had a hard battle against great odds, the credulous inexperienced mother having the remaining six days on which to weaken and try other methods of feeding, usually for no reason whatsoever.

Slightly more progress has been made as regards the so-called "Comforter" and its train of defects, but here again the battle is hard, and fashion very slow to change. Cramped housing and sleeping accommodation are often the apology for its use.

The Ante-Natal Clinic, which was started in 1926, has progressed to an extent that a second weekly session would be an advantage. One of the results of the teaching at this Clinic which should prove most beneficial is the earlier stage in pregnancy at which the women now attend of their own accord for examination and reassurance that they are doing what will be best for themselves and the expected baby. This attitude applies not only to women expecting their first baby, but also to mothers many of whom have attended the Clinic with previous pregnancies.

Although the maternal mortality rate has not been lessened to any extent, if this forethought continues it should go a long way in helping to lessen the preventable mortalities which are calculated as one-third of the whole.

Another good result of early attendance and examination has been that, by degrees, the old conservative idea has been given up, that a septic mouth due to dental defects should be left alone till after the confinement. This really shews considerable enlightenment, and many expectant mothers have gratefully acknowledged the benefit they have experienced by receiving timely treatment."

The Port of Lancaster.

I.—Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1934.

TABLE A.

		Number	Ton'age	Number Inspected		No. reported to be defective.	No. of vessels on which defects were remedi'd	No. of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the M.O.H.	By the S.I.			
Foreign	Steamers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	*Motor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign		—	–	—	—	—	—	—
Coastwise	Steamers	113	16682	--	6	—	—	—
	*Motor	130	10973	—	9	—	—	—
	Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	2	140	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise		245	27795	—	15	—	—	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...		245	27795	—	15	—	—	—

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II.—Character of Trade of Port:—

TABLE B.

(*a*) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Trans-migrants.
Inwards	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Outwards	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

(*b*) Cargo Traffic :

The principal imports are coal, china clay, cement, grain and linseed oil.

There are no exports.

III.—Source of Water Supply.—There is a satisfactory and constant supply of water for the Port and for shipping from the reservoirs of the Lancaster Corporation and the Fylde Water Board.

There are no water boats.

IV.—Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.—With the exception of linseed oil from Rotterdam, the trade of the Port is coastwise. In the possible event in the future of a ship coming from a foreign port the Medical Officer of Health will get timely warning from the Harbour Master.

A supply of Declarations of Health is provided by the Customs Officer for the use of Masters of foreign-going ships. The Customs Officer forwards these on completion to the Sanitary Authority.

The same officer would notify the Authority in the case of inward vessels requiring special attention.

Under Article 10, for all unhealthy vessels arriving at the Port of Lancaster, including Glasson Dock, their places of mooring, discharge or loading have been established as mooring stations.

Standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14 have been granted for vessels with infectious diseases other than Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever, and Smallpox on board, and for vessels otherwise healthy which arrive from a port listed under Article 11.

The ambulance and isolation hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board are available for the transport and accommodation of cases of infectious disease.

Bacteriological and pathological examinations would be carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.—None during the past twenty-one years.

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.—None during the past twenty-one years.

V.—Measures against Rodents.—No special measures have been taken.

No rats have been found on vessels, and there is no record of the number destroyed, mainly by cats, in wharves and warehouses.

VI.—Hygiene of the Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.—CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number Inspected during the Year.	Defects of Original Construction.	Structural Defects through Wear & Tear.	Dirt, Vermin, and other Conditions Prejudicial to Health.
British	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Nations	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

VII.—Food Inspection.

(1) No action was taken or necessary under Imported Food, Imported Milk, etc., Regulations.

(2) Shellfish.—The shellfish beds and layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority are liable to pollution, and the Lancaster (Shellfish) Regulations, 1918, prohibit the sale and distribution for human consumption of mussels or other shellfish taken from within the Port Sanitary District which have not been satisfactorily cleansed or sterilized.

(3) No samples of food were examined. Foodstuffs arrive from Liverpool only.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1934.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhœa & Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths (under one year).	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	14·8	0·62	11·8	0·00	0·00	0·09	0·02	0·05	0·10	0·14	0·54	5·5	59	90·4	6·5	2·1	1·0
121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14·7	0·66	11·8	0·00	0·00	0·12	0·02	0·06	0·11	0·12	0·47	7·4	63	90·5	6·1	2·9	0·5
126 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations, 25,000—50,000)	15·0	0·67	11·3	0·00	0·00	0·07	0·02	0·04	0·09	0·14	0·42	3·6	53	91·2	6·1	1·6	1·1
London	13·2	0·50	11·9	0·00	0·00	0·20	0·02	0·07	0·11	0·12	0·56	12·6	67	87·7	6·3	6·0	0·0
Lancaster	14·8	0·90	11·3	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·08	0·55	1·5	45	92·0	4·5	0·8	2·7

DEATHS FROM CANCER,
1913—1934.

Year.	Total Deaths (all causes).	Deaths from Cancer.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
1913	524	20	27	47
1914	488	11	25	36
1915	554	15	13	28
1916	553	19	16	35
1917	515	16	18	34
1918	682	20	23	43
1919	539	18	21	39
1920	499	16	28	44
1921	499	18	27	45
1922	556	21	21	42
1923	497	22	33	55
1924	565	31	33	64
1925	570	31	31	62
1926	475	33	32	65
1927	560	27	40	67
1928	488	42	40	82
1929	609	21	33	54
1930	525	26	39	65
1931	532	40	27	67
1932	540	27	33	60
1933	564	38	25	63
1934	513	26	28	54
Total 22 years	11,847	538	613	1,151

Ratio of Cancer deaths to total deaths:—

1913—1917, 1 in 15.
1918—1922, 1 in 13.
1923—1927, 1 in 9.
1928—1932, 1 in 8.
1933—1934, 1 in 9.

INFANT MORTALITY.

	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths within the First Week.	Deaths in Second to Fourth Weeks.
1926	43	14	7
1927	50	10	10
1928	48	13	7
1929	66	23	6
1930	37	14	8
1931	39	10	4
1932	54	14	14
1933	42	16	8
1934	31	15	6

Report on Housing.

(Census of England and Wales, 1931).

Borough of Lancaster.

Dwellings occupied by private families		9,530
Proportion of vacant unfurnished dwellings		0·80
Rooms occupied by private families		47,283
Private Families		9,988
Population in private families		37,525
Rooms per occupied dwelling		4·96
Families per occupied dwelling		1·05
Persons per family	1931	3·76
	1921	4·08
Persons per room	1931	0·79
	1921	0·83

Percentage living more than two persons per room :—

Private Families.	Population.	
1931.	1931.	1921.
2·44	4·49	4·07

Water Analysis.

A sample of water taken on 20th September, 1934, from a house-tap, Dalton Square, supplied from Damas Reservoir through Langthwaite Filter-house, was examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, with the following results :—

I.—*Bacteriological Examination.*

Quantitative Analysis.	Average results of two examinations.	
	No. of Colonies in 1 gm. water :	
Aerobic micro-organisms growing in nutrient gelatine in 3 days at 20°C. :		
Non-Liquefying bacteria	11	Total 15
Liquefying bacteria	4	
Aerobic micro-organisms growing on standard agar in 48 hours at 37°C.	4	

Qualitative Analysis.		Quantity of water in which these bacteria were found :	not found :
Bacteria associated with sewage or fæcal pollution.	(*a*) typical	100 cc.	10 cc.
	B. Coli. (typical)	—	100 cc.

II.—*Chemical Examination.*

(Numerical results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Colour—Green. Turbidity—Slight. Smell—None.

Oxygen absorbed ...	0·036	Hardness { Temporary ...	1·0
Free & Saline Ammonia	0·0014	(Clark's { Permanent ...	0·7
Albuminoid Ammonia...	0·0024	method) { Total	1·7
Nitrous Nitrogen ...	Nil.	Reaction, pH	7·5
Nitric Nitrogen ...	0·012	Action on lead (24 hours)...	0·06
Chlorides	1·5	Metals	Nil.